



November 23, 2020

WDVA Bulletin No. 1084

TO: County/Tribal Veterans Service Offices

Subject: Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant

The Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant is a new State of Wisconsin veterans benefit available to qualified veterans, as well as certain spouses and children of qualified veterans, which provides a tuition grant to students enrolled in a bachelor's or graduate degree program at a private nonprofit educational institution that is a member of the *Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)*. Dependent children of qualified veterans must be at least 17 but not yet 26 years of age in order to qualify.

The amount of a grant allowed for an eligible student for a semester or session is equal to the lesser of the following:

1. Two thousand dollars.
2. Fifty percent of the amount of tuition charged by the private institution in which the eligible student is enrolled less one of the following amounts:
 - a. If the eligible student is a veteran, the amount of tuition paid under Title 10 USC §2107 (c), Title 38 USC §3104 (a) (7) (A), or Title 38 USC §3313.
 - b. If the eligible student is a dependent, the amount of tuition paid under Title 38 USC §3319.

For each grant, the private institution at which the eligible student is enrolled shall match the amount of the grant.

Grants may be provided for up to 128 credits or eight semesters, less the number of credits or semesters for which the student received tuition remission under the Wisconsin G.I. Bill. This means the 128 credits or eight semesters of coverage between the Wisconsin G.I. Bill and Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant are combined and there is not a separate pool of credits or semesters for each benefit.

Students generally must exhaust any U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) educational benefit eligibility before using the Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant.

The Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant is a collaboration between the *Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (WHEAB)*, which administers the program, and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), which acts as the certifying agency and determines a veteran's eligibility for the program. Questions regarding the administration of the benefit should be directed to the Higher Educational Aids Board.

In order to qualify for the Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant, a veteran must meet service and residency requirements. If submitting an application for a spouse or dependent child, a veteran must meet an additional disability requirement. The eligibility requirements for this grant mirror those of the Wisconsin G.I. Bill.

The individual upon whom eligibility is based (qualified veteran) must have separated from the military under honorable conditions and meet at least one of the following:

1. Served on active duty for at least 90 (cumulative) days during wartime.



2. Served on active duty for at least two consecutive years during peacetime or the full period of initial service obligation.
3. Was discharged due to a service-connected disability, disability later adjudicated to be service-connected, reasons of hardship, or reduction in forces.
4. Received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or an equivalent expeditionary or service medal.
5. Served for any period of service under section 1 of Executive Order 10957 dated August 10, 1961.

A qualified veteran is a current Wisconsin resident who either:

1. Entered active military service as a Wisconsin resident (Home of Record was Wisconsin).
2. Has been a Wisconsin resident for at least five consecutive years immediately preceding the start of any semester or session.

The following requirement applies only when a spouse or dependent child is the applicant:

- Veteran must have been awarded at least a 30% service-connected disability rating by the USDVA or died in the line of duty.

In order to submit an application, please have the veteran:

1. Complete the *WDVA 2059 (Request for Certification for Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant)*.
2. Submit the *WDVA 2059* and supporting documents, including the veteran's DD-214 and proof of residence and disability (if applicable) via any of the following methods:
 - a. Email to Madison.Records@dva.wisconsin.gov.
 - b. Fax to (608) 267-0403.
 - c. Mail to Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, PO Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843.
3. Contact the private institution at which the student is enrolled or the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board.
4. If deemed eligible, the applicant will receive a *WDVA 2060 (Certification for Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant)* from the *WDVA*. The *(WHEAB)* will be able to access the certification.

The statutory authority for the Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant is *Wisconsin Statute § 39.49*.

Please direct any questions regarding the administration of this grant to Charlene Sime, Grant Specialist at Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (WHEAB) at (608) 266-0888 or charlenek.sime@wi.gov.

Please direct any questions regarding eligibility or certification to the Veterans Benefits Resource Center at 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387) or WisVets@dva.wisconsin.gov.